

204. The method of claim 202, wherein said monitoring of said I/O resource utilization comprises monitoring system I/O performance characteristics of said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices at the logical volume level.

205. The method of claim 202, wherein said monitoring of said I/O resource utilization comprises constantly monitoring a workload of said at least one storage device or at least one partitioned group of storage devices at the logical volume level during run-time of said storage system; and wherein said method further comprises deciding to accept or reject at least one new I/O request based at least in part on said monitored workload.

206. The method of claim 202, wherein said method comprises monitoring at least one of maximal aggregate consumption rate for said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices, maximal aggregate number of viewers for said at least one storage device or partitioned group of storage devices, or a combination thereof.

207. The method of claim 201, wherein said information delivery environment comprises delivery of continuous media data to a plurality of viewers from an information management system comprising a storage system, said storage system including said I/O resources and having at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

208. The method of claim 207, wherein said information management system comprises a content delivery system coupled to a network; and wherein said continuous media data is delivered from said content delivery system to said plurality of viewers across said network.

209. The method of claim 208, wherein said content delivery system comprises an endpoint content delivery system coupled to said network at an endpoint of said network.

210. The method of claim 208, further comprising monitoring a workload distribution across said at least two storage devices or at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

211. The method of claim 210, wherein said workload distribution is monitored by monitoring at least one of maximal aggregate consumption rate for each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, maximal aggregate number of viewers for each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, or a combination thereof.

212. The method of claim 211, wherein said I/O resources comprise I/O capacity; and wherein said method further comprises modeling said I/O capacity based at least in part on said monitored workload distribution across said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices.

213. The method of claim 212, wherein said one or more I/O resources further comprise buffer memory space of said information management system; and wherein said method further comprises managing said I/O resources by balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space to ensure uninterrupted delivery of said continuous media data to said plurality of viewers from said at least two storage devices or said at least two partitioned groups of storage devices.

214. The method of claim 213, wherein a maximum actual Skew value of at least one of said storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices is greater than or equal to about 2.

215. The method of claim 213, wherein said buffer memory space comprises a part of an integrated cache/buffer memory of said storage system.

216. The method of claim 215, wherein said method further comprises limiting a size of said buffer memory space by implementing a read-ahead buffer limit.

217. The method of claim 210, wherein said I/O resources comprise I/O capacity and buffer memory space; and wherein said monitoring of workload distribution comprises monitoring a number of viewers that are reading data from each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices out of the total number of viewers being served by said storage system; and managing said I/O resources by balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space to ensure uninterrupted delivery of said continuous media data to said viewers reading data from said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices.

218. The method of claim 210, wherein said I/O resources comprise I/O capacity and buffer memory space; wherein said monitoring of workload distribution comprises monitoring the number of existing viewers served from each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; and wherein said method further comprises managing said I/O resources by balancing said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space based at least in part on said monitored number of existing viewers and said monitored data consumption rates of said existing viewers, and determining whether or not a capacity of said system is sufficient to support at least one additional viewer based at least in part on said balancing of said I/O capacity with said buffer memory space.

219. The method of claim 210, wherein said I/O resources comprise I/O capacity and buffer memory space; wherein said monitoring of workload distribution comprises monitoring the number of existing viewers served from each of said at least two storage devices or partitioned groups of storage devices, and monitoring the data consumption rate of said existing viewers; and wherein said method further comprises determining a read-ahead size by balancing said I/O